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C O N F I D E N T I A L YEREVAN 003032

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/CACEN, PM

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/18/2013

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [AM](#)

SUBJECT: GOAM SIGNALS AGREEMENT FOR DEPLOYMENT OF TRUCK COMPANY TO IRAQ

REF: A. STATE 318113

[B](#). YEREVAN 02668

[C](#). YEREVAN 02883

Classified By: AMBASSADOR JOHN ORDWAY FOR REASONS 1.5 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs notified the Embassy by diplomatic note that the GOAM had agreed to the deployment of cargo-carrying trucks to stability operations in Iraq. Foreign Minister Oskanyan confirmed to the Ambassador that the Ministry of Defense was in the process of collecting military trucks for use in Iraq. The Ambassador suggested that Armenian military experts be sent to CENTCOM in Tampa, Florida, or that the MOD provide the Armenian liaison officer at CENTCOM with specific technical questions to speed the deployment process. End summary.

[1](#)2. (C) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent a diplomatic note dated December 16 to the Embassy stating that the "Government of the Republic of Armenia agrees to meet the request of the American side(and agrees to designate an Armenia cargo-carrying company to participate in operation Iraqi Freedom II" (NOTE: Foreign Minister Oskanyan confirmed to the Ambassador that the military unit under discussion was the truck company as requested in ref A. END NOTE.) The diplomatic note further stated that the MFA "suggests arranging a meeting between the representatives of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the United States Embassy to discuss technical and procedural details."

[1](#)3. (C) The Ambassador met with Foreign Minister Oskanyan December 17 and discussed the possible deployment. Oskanyan informed the Ambassador that the Ministry of Defense was in the process of collecting the requested units, an effort that "might take time." In order to speed the process, the Ambassador reiterated the suggestion he had made earlier to Defense Minister Sargsyan that the MOD dispatch specialists to CENTCOM in Tampa, Florida to assist in the pre-deployment process, or that the MOD provide the Armenian liaison officer already at CENTCOM with a list of technical questions regarding the trucks to present to CENTCOM officials. Oskanyan also noted that the GOAM had yet to conclude a Status of Forces Agreement with Kuwait, though negotiations were ongoing.

[1](#)4. (C) The Embassy had pressed the GOAM to agree to the deployment (refs A and B). The Ambassador discussed the possible deployment with Defense Minister Sargsyan and with leading Armenian Diaspora members who subsequently intervened directly with President Kocharian and the Defense Minister. During visits in November, General Charles Wald, Deputy Commander of EUCOM, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Lynn Pascoe separately requested the Armenian deployment with senior GOAM officials (ref C).

[1](#)5. (U) HQ Coalition Baghdad Minimize Considered.
ORDWAY